UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24628
7 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter circulated in document S/24562 of 15 September 1992 and my letter addressed to you and circulated in document S/24591 of 28 September 1992 transmitting two video tapes documenting the confessions referred to in document S/24562, I wish to inform you that my Government desires to call attention to the dangers of the Iranian policy of brainwashing Iraqi prisoners of war and then using them for infiltration operations against their own country for the purpose of carrying out acts of sabotage, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of the second Geneva Convention.

My Government hopes that you will take appropriate measures to induce the Government of Iran to abide by the provisions of the second Geneva Convention, to which it is a Contracting Party.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

---

92-46634 3690e (E) 071092 071092

071092

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24629
8 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note on the damage caused by the implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) to the professional training sector and the public utilities and public works sector.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Permanent Representative

92-48678 3586i (E) 081092 081092

081092

/...

## Annex

## Impact of the implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) on the professional training sector and the public utilities and public works sector

I

The implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) has had a negative impact on activities in the professional training sector. The embargo has affected the training process, which depends heavily on raw materials that are not available locally and used to be imported by air, especially those needed urgently, for the conduct of practical tests. The implementation of the resolution has resulted in studies not being pursued as scheduled because teachers have been unable to return to their places of work at the proper time. It has also altered the scheduling of the implementation of a number of training projects because of the delayed arrival of those essential materials that it had been arranged to import by air.

The implementation of the resolution has affected the Old City project, which provides living testimony to the succession of human civilizations. The damage caused by the embargo to this project, which concerns one of the world's historical and cultural possessions sponsored by UNESCO, can be seen in the following:

1. The difficulty of establishing and maintaining contacts between the project and academic institutions abroad, such as the French National Archives and the Bureau of Documents and Records in Denmark, in order to obtain documents, records and information relating to the history of the consulates in the Old City. A start can then be made on preparing historical and architectural studies and then on the relevant restoration and maintenance work so that the City will remain as testimony to the history of relations between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the countries of the world.

2. The missed opportunity to participate in overseas exhibitions and academic forums because of the late arrival of invitations from outside bodies and institutions addressed to those supervising the project owing to the disruption of air communications, thereby making it difficult to make advance preparations for such academic programmes at the scheduled times.

3. The difficulty of obtaining specific precision equipment and raw materials that are not available in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and are required for the maintenance and restoration work at the project.

II

The implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992) has inflicted damage on the public utilities and public works sector, as follows:

1. A shortage of insecticides, causing severe harm to the environment. Should such damage continue to be caused, the entire region may be at risk.

2. A shortage of spare parts for the equipment, machines and vehicles of the public sanitation company, thereby disrupting day-to-day garbage collection, removal and disposal services.

3. A shortage of vaccines and antibiotics, giving rise to a total incapacity to vaccinate against and combat certain diseases.

4. A shortage of replacement parts for water purification plants and plants for pumping sewage water, thereby causing such plants to cease operation and producing overflows of sewage water in many areas and towns.

5. A shortage of water pumps and of some of the spare parts required for the control panels mounted on drinking-water wells, thereby portending a severe water shortage further complicating the mounting shortage problem.

6. A shortage of some essential items for the zoological garden in the Nasr Forest.

7. The discontinuation of contacts and meetings between technicians in the public utilities and public works sector and companies under contract to study a complex of designs and pilot projects, thereby causing the postponement of the work for which contracts have been concluded.

8. Disruption of the arrangements for taking delivery of water storage towers under a contract with a Yugoslavian company, because the company has been unable to import certain essential items.

---

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/507
S/24630
7 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 6 October 1992 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which retains the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention.

Today, the occupying Israeli forces indiscriminately fired upon Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in several locations. In Rafah, at approximately 9 a.m. local time, the Israeli forces raided the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where a number of Palestinians had been previously assembled in solidarity with the ongoing prisoners' strike. Several thousands of the estimated 12,500 Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli detention centres and prisons have been waging a hunger strike since 27 September 1992 to protest against the deteriorating conditions of detention imposed upon them by the Israeli authorities.

The Israeli forces also attacked other Palestinian gatherings in the same town of Rafah, which resulted in the shooting of 63 people in addition to 45 other casualties by other means, including gas bombs. Similar criminal acts were committed in the City of Gaza, resulting in 26 casualties, as well as in Al-Maghazi and Deir Al-Balah refugee camps and in the city of Hebron.

We expect immediate action by the Secretary-General and the Security Council to put an end to such breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 committed by the Israeli authorities and to put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian prisoners.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 35, 73 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

---

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24631
8 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to our previous letters on the subject, the most recent of which was that of 10 August 1992 (S/24408), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a list showing the 420 bombs and miscellaneous projectiles found and disposed of in the various parts of Iraq over the period from 1 to 30 September 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex containing the above-mentioned list circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Number of bombs and miscellaneous projectiles dealt with by disposal teams of the civil defence departments in all governorates, 1-30 September 1992

| Governorate | Number |
|---|---|
| Baghdad | 2 |
| Ninawa | 53 |
| Basra | 238 |
| Babil | - |
| Najaf | 5 |
| Karbala | 8 |
| Anbar | - |
| Maysan | 43 |
| Salah al-Din | 2 |
| Diyala | 1 |
| Wasit | 23 |
| Ta'mim | 15 |
| Dhi Qar | 30 |
| Qadisiyah | - |
| Muthanna | - |
| Total | 420 |

---

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24632
7 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF GEORGIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In connection with the statement of the President of the Security Council of 6 October concerning the situation in Georgia, we would be grateful if the text of attached statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tedo JAPARIDZE
First Deputy Foreign Minister
Georgia

92-48622 3435c (E) 071092

071092

/...

Annex

Statement dated 7 October 1992 of the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, Tedo Japaridze, to the Security Council

It was only yesterday that Georgia gained its independence and embarked on the path of democratic transformation. Little we knew that already today the Republic of Georgia would be compelled to appeal to the international community for help as its very existence is at stake. By some higher design Georgia has been chosen to be the place where eternal struggle between the old way of living and the future way of thinking is being settled.

Armed conflict in one of the regions of Georgia - Abkhazia - instigated by an assorted variety of local separatist groups, nationalist forces of the confederation of Caucasian peoples and reactionary elements of some governmental structures of Russia, including representatives of military establishment, have unleashed a well-planned conspiracy aimed at the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Georgian Republic.

The leadership of Abkhazia, taking advantage of the complex political setting in Georgia, has undertaken an attempt to turn the autonomous Republic into a den of terrorists and mercenaries who stop and rob trains, destroy highways and bridges, causing damage to property and environment. Political figures, including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, have been kidnapped. Abkhazia has been transformed into a centre directing terrorist and subversive activities towards the rest of Georgia and beyond.

At the same time, the Abkhazian leaders openly ignored the laws of Georgia as well as their own constitution. They monopolized power and rejected repeated attempts on Georgian part to establish fundamentally new relationship within the framework of unified and indivisible frontiers, recognized by the international community.

Georgia has been operating on the basic premises, long adopted by the civilized community of nations - namely the independence of one nation cannot be built at the expense of national interests of other nations, especially those living in close proximity throughout the centuries.

It is unacceptable that under the guise of the right to self-determination, the actual splintering of the territory of a democratic State Member of the United Nations is taking place. It is even more appalling when this happens in the State which follows all norms of international law, especially those pertaining to the protection of human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities.

In the Georgia-Abkhazia case, the situation is further complicated by the fact that the separatists constitute only a fraction of the whole population of Abkhaz Autonomous Republic. The world knows little about the fact that

Abkhazians amount to only 18 per cent of the total population of Abkhazia itself.

We believe it is morally wrong when through manipulation of laws and discriminatory election procedures, the voters of one nationality that make up 18 per cent send to the parliament of the Abkhazia Autonomous Republic more deputies than the voters of another group which constitute half of the population of Abkhazia. It is practically impossible to create and maintain special political, electoral or other zones for Abkhazians only to the detriment of other nationalities, as it is inconceivable to separate the ethnic minorities living in Abkhazia from each other.

This situation is not uniquely Georgian. Similar case studies are referred to in universally recognized documents, such as the 1970 United Nations Declaration on the Principles of International Law; the Helsinki Final Act; and subsequent documents of CSCE, including the Declaration adopted at the Summit Meeting of Helsinki 2.

These documents call for the protection of the rights of national minorities, as well as responsibilities of those minorities. Fully aware of these fundamental tenets, Georgia continued to negotiate on the issue of the political status of Abkhazia even at a time when it was compelled to declare a state of emergency to protect railroads from the Russian Federation to Armenia.

Since the Abkhazian leaders refused to effectively stop the activities carried out by subversive groups based on Abkhazia, Georgia had to relocate its armed forces within this region. Every sovereign country has the right to protect the security of its population and its territorial integrity by pursuing and punishing terrorists as long as they remain within the borders and jurisdiction of the State. The redeployment of the armed forces of Georgia from one part of the country to another - in this case Abkhazia - was the only possible solution under the adverse conditions existing at that time.

Unfortunately, this troop movement was met by fire from the so-called Abkhazian national guard. The armed conflict was thus unleashed. The responsibility squarely rests with those leaders, who under false pretenses of protecting independence drove the country into a bloody confrontation. The accusations, that the Georgian Government instigated unrestricted "aggression" or "occupation" of Abkhazia, are totally groundless and devoid of reality.

Moreover, the subsequent events justified the redeployment of Georgian armed forces. They arrived at the border with Russia and put the area under their control thus effectively cutting off the channel for terrorist activities.

Abkhaz separatists pretended to be ready for peace negotiations, but this turned out to be just another smokescreen, behind which they started to receive state of the art weapons from different sources, including the so-called confederation of Caucasian nations.

These illegal entities in the extreme southern part of Russia have been for years in active opposition to the democratic government of President Yeltsin, encouraging the worst forms of religious and ideological bigotry and political adventurism. Thus, it comes as no surprise that at the very inception of the Abkhazian conflict, the so-called president and parliament of this illegitimate, non-governmental organization, terrorist in essence, has declared our country and its capital city a zone of disaster, calling for the use of any means of terror, including acts of mass murder.

Thousands upon thousands of terrorists and hired assassins have penetrated and continue to penetrate Georgia's boundaries. They by far exceed the Abkhazian separatists in numbers.

The Georgian forces actually found themselves involved in full-scale undeclared war with the mercenaries, launched from the territory of a neighbouring country. There are those who would like to ascribe to this war some religious underpinning. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Religious and racial tolerance have always been the components of the political culture of the Georgian State. That is why the appeals by Muslim fundamentalists of the confederation to assist Abkhazians because of common religion is misleading and aims at distorting if not outright concealing the facts. The conflict has no religious overtone whatsoever. By the way only half of the 80,000 ethnic Abkhaz are Muslims, the other half being of Christian denomination.

The real aim being pursued is easily recognizable. It is an attempt to cut off Abkhazia from Georgia, unite it with the so-called confederation and thus obtain access to the sea. It is no coincidence that the present capital of Abkhazia - Sukhumi - has been simultaneously declared the capital of the so-called confederation.

Unfortunately, the Government of the Russian Federation cannot effectively stop the infiltration of Georgian territory by mercenaries. As for the Georgian Government, it has no power yet to control all the passages in the mountains.

On 3 September, in Moscow, an agreement was reached concerning the solution of the Abkhazian conflict by peaceful means. The Security Council earlier was informed about this. The Trilateral Commission was to implement these agreements. The most important aspect of the solution was the decision to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation to disarm and expel from the zone of conflict the armed mercenaries who came from Russia and are Russian citizens. However, neither the representatives of Russia or Abkhazia, nor the Russian army units deployed in the region, did anything to genuinely end the conflict.

The timetable of the withdrawal of the mercenaries from Abkhazia was adjusted and readjusted endlessly. At the same time, the numbers of the armed units were increasing. Surprisingly enough this time they were brought in by small ships and vessels belonging to or controlled by the official Russian

Navy. It was then that it became clear that the widespread conspiracy which I mentioned above, namely between Abkhaz separatists, nationalistic terrorists from the confederation of mountainous nations and reactionary forces from within the State structures of Russia, came to light for all practical purposes.

This conspiracy pursues three goals. First of all, it is directed against Georgia's sovereignty and increasing stability. Indeed, for certain groups of people, a stable, neutral and prosperous Georgia means the end of their historic imperial aspirations.

Secondly, the actions of the local Russian Commanders, which have all the ingredients of a "Generals' revolt", are aiming at the heart of democratic Russia, President Yeltsin and the positive processes initiated by him. Having said this, one should also add that it is strange that President Yeltsin has not yet repudiated or at least distanced himself from the declaration of the Russian Parliament which served as political and legal basis for this aggression.

Thirdly, and this should be of utmost concern to the international community of nations. What might seem from a distance as a local border skirmish, in fact, if left alone to the peoples of the States directly involved in the conflict, might attain regional dimensions. As a matter of fact, by the sheer magnitude of the violations of human rights, it has already become a global issue. This prompts me to recall that the crisis in Yugoslavia started and developed along the same blueprint.

Just a few facts: The positions vacated by the Georgian forces according to the Moscow agreements were quickly retaken by the Akhazian side. This change-over was and is accompanied by widespread acts of mass murder, vandalism and atrocities. In the ports of Gagra and Pitzunda more than 800 selectively Georgian nationals were executed during the last three to four days. The names were compiled in advance by local militia of Abkhaz origin. Alexander Petisashvili was buried alive; mother and son Gugineishvili shot in cold blood in their own house; POWs being used as moving targets and a number of them burned alive. Acco·ding to the statement of the new Abkhaz Administrator of the City of Gagra, they accomplished the execution of 65 men and women at the central city beach in the night and buried them in a mass grave.

We formally accuse these outlaws of perpetuating unspeakable atrocities and unusually cruel treatment of prisoners of war as well as the civilian population. The letter has come at the risk of mass murder and annihilation, suffering from torture and widespread degradation. We intend to appeal to the International Court of Justice to qualify these acts as war crimes and accordingly treat the perpetrators, that is bringing them to trial and punishment which they rightly deserve.

We can go on and on. The natural question is how this was made possible. Who protects and inspires new vampires of the Twentieth Century?

It is an established fact that since the time of the Moscow meetings, the number of the North Caucasian terrorists increased twofold and is now reaching 10,000. They are armed with state of the art weapons - 10 T-72s and T-80s tanks; modern anti-aircraft systems; ground to air missiles and so on - in short, with weapons which only the Russian army possesses. These weapons started to appear in the possession of Abkhaz and terrorist forces during the last two weeks.

Who is giving these weapons to the Abkhaz side, and even more important, who services and uses them? This question is not of a purely academic nature. It is a known fact that one needs highly trained personnel to man modern anti-aircraft systems. This kind of expertise is not currently available among terrorist groups, fortunately.

However, this lack of training was fully compensated by the "timely advice" of Generals Kondratiev and Sigutkin - local Commanders of the Russian army, who have established their headquarters in Gudauta, next to the headquarters of Abkhaz separatists.

During the conflict the Russian forces deployed in the region are preventing Georgian units from active operations limiting their movements. At the same time they afford the other side any and all necessary freedom of action. A Russian SU-24 airplane attacked and downed a rescue helicopter belonging to Georgia. The helicopter pilot was killed. This is just one example out of many incidents.

May we ask, what are two Russian cruiser ships doing in the territorial waters of Georgia and why are they firing at Georgian army positions, outside Pitzunda? Why does the Russian air force prevent the small Georgian air force from flying not only combat but also humanitarian rescue missions? Who actually attacked the airplane which the Chairman of the State Council, Mr. Shevardnadze, was flying on?

If we honestly and bluntly answer all these questions, one cannot but arrive at the sad conclusion that we are facing gross violation and neglect of accepted norms of international law. This is nothing short of the third attempt to annex Georgia; the first and second of course being in 1801 and 1921 respectively.

Georgia is defenceless in the face of a direct aggression, which the central Government of Russia is unable to curb because of the complex domestic and political situation. Nevertheless, the Russian democrats should realize that the situation in Georgia is not an isolated event. Rather it is an attempt to reverse the historic retreat of anti-democratic, reactionary forces on all fronts. If they succeed in Georgia, it will be a severe and destabilizing blow to the process of creating modern democratic society in Russia based on the universal human values and the supremacy of international law. That is why the voice of Russian democrats in defence of Georgia today will bring a rich harvest for them tomorrow.

The question of questions today is whether the young nascent democracy of Georgia will be allowed to die or the world community will act to save it. We hope for the latter.

In any case, the peoples of the Republic of Georgia of every national and ethnic origin or religious denomination, who cherish the ideals of a united, democratic, peace loving and prosperous Georgia, will rise and fulfil their civil and patriotic duty.

And one more thing. All we have said today, in one form or another was already spoken about in the address of Mr. Shevardnadze to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It is the second time he has foreseen and warned the international community of the approaching conspiracy against democracy and the encroachment of the freedom of choice of peoples.

The situation in Georgia is grave. Even while I speak here, people are dying. The war is raging unabashed. We, in Georgia, ascribe high hopes and expectations to this session of the Security Council.

We want to use this opportunity and to thank the United Nations, the Security Council and the Secretary-General for everything they have already done. The previous fact-finding mission of the United Nations had a great positive political and psychological effect. Unfortunately, the excellent report prepared by the Secretariat has been overtaken by the recent events.

We have come here in search of peace. It is our last chance of attracting the attention of the world community to the gross misjustice done by reactionary and dark forces to the small, peace loving and unprotected nation.

We believe the United Nations in its collective wisdom and long honourable record of protecting small countries will not turn us away with empty hands. We believe the United Nations will find a way to bring to the quickest possible solution the military aggression and to launch peace talks in the region, in full compliance with the Moscow agreements of 3 September 1992, which should serve as a basis for a just and equitable settlement of the conflict. In this context, we will request the Security Council to authorize the Secretary-General to send his personal representative to Caucasus.

We would request the Security Council to send a small contingent of United Nations peace-keeping forces to the region. We recognize the financial and logistical implications of this request, but the situation warrants this action. If this request is unattainable we would however request the Security Council to consider the possibility of sending 10-15 military observers who will be working under the Secretary-General's personal envoy.

We also intend to lodge our formal complaint with the International Court of Justice to investigate the cases of atrocities and numerous violations of the Vienna and Hague Conventions.

We will use any and all United Nations specialized organizations as well as United Nations moral authority to make our voice heard by the public at large.

We have spoken. Now it is the United Nations turn. We ask for sympathy, understanding and justice. This is not much to ask, but they are vitally needed elements to us and to all new democracies of the world.

---

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24633
8 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the statement by the President of the Security Council, dated 10 September 1992 (S/24542), on the conflict in Abkhazia. The statement took note, inter alia, of my intention to send a mission of good offices to Georgia. It also requested me to inform the Council periodically of the development of the conflict in Abkhazia.

The mission of good offices, headed by Mr. Gustave Feissel, Director in the Department of Political Affairs, took place from 12 to 20 September 1992. In Tbilisi, the mission met with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, President of the State Council of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Alexander Chikvaidze, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Sandro Kavsadze, Deputy Prime Minister, and with representatives of the State Council and several political parties. The mission also went to Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia, where it was able to talk to representatives of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, including its first Deputy President. In addition, the mission went to the town of Gudauta which is currently the headquarters of the Abkhazian group in the Supreme Council. In Gudauta the mission had lengthy discussions with the President of the Supreme Council, Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba. While in Sukhumi and Gudauta the mission also met with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Upon returning to Tbilisi the mission had a further meeting with Mr. Shevardnadze and also with representatives of the diplomatic community.

On returning to New York, the mission presented me with a detailed report giving its observations and conclusions. I have the honour to annex hereto a summary of the report, for the information of members of the Council.

As you know, the situation in Abkhazia has deteriorated considerably in recent days. Fierce fighting has broken out again, threatening peace and security in the region. The Council is aware that yesterday I received a letter from the Deputy President of the State Council of Georgia, underscoring the gravity of the situation and requesting United Nations support (S/24626).

In view of the serious deterioration in the conflict in Abkhazia I intend, as a matter of urgency, to send a further United Nations mission to the region, headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

The mission will inform the parties of the international community's grave concern over the fighting which is breaking out in Abkhazia and which threatens the maintenance of international peace and security in the region. It will stress the urgency of prompt and full implementation of the agreement of 3 September. In that connection, the mission will explore ways in which the United Nations can support implementation of the agreement, including the deployment of civilian and/or military observers. The mission will include several observers who will remain on the spot in order to provide an initial United Nations presence.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

Summary of the report of the goodwill mission to Georgia

(12-20 September 1992)

[Original: English]

The situation in Abkhazia

1. The immediate crisis in Abkhazia can be attributed to the widespread sabotage and looting since early this year in Abkhazia and western Georgia, which the mission was informed has resulted in some 11 billion roubles in lost goods and has virtually cut Georgia's links with the Russian Federation, its main trading partner; and to actions by the ethnic Abkhaz leadership related to their declaring the former Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic as an independent Republic.

2. The situation in Abkhazia is significantly affected by the efforts of ex-President Gamsakhurdia to destabilize the Government of Georgia, the presence in Abkhazia of a significant number of north Caucasian fighters and the provision of supplies from that area in support of the Abkhaz side, as well as the easy availability of weapons apparently obtained to a large extent from elements of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) armed forces stationed there. The existence of Georgian paramilitary elements and the lack of discipline in the Georgian armed forces further aggravates the problem.

3. Abkhazia, located in the north-western part of Georgia, has a population of some 540,000 of which only about 18 per cent are Abkhaz. The majority of the population is Georgian (about 47 per cent), and others include Armenians (about 18 per cent) and Russians (about 13 per cent).

4. The relations between Georgians and Abkhaz has been tense on and off for many decades (it should be noted that Abkhaz are ethnically related to the north Caucasian mountain tribes and not to Georgians. Like the north Caucasians, a significant proportion of Abkhaz are of the Islamic faith.). Most recently, strains surfaced in 1978 when an Abkhaz campaign was launched to separate the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia from the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and to incorporate it in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. While this was rejected by both the Russia Federation and Georgia, significant concessions were made to the Abkhaz, including a disproportionate representation in the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia. These concessions in turn contributed to the growing perception among Georgians, very much evident at present, that the Abkhaz were benefiting from unfair preferential treatment. In 1989, demands were again made that Abkhazia be detached from Georgia and be granted the status of full Union Republic, which it had enjoyed from 1921 to 1930. Negative reaction among Georgians led to the first of a series of violent incidents, which resulted in a significant number of deaths.

5. The events that led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and to Georgian independence further encouraged the proponents for Abkhazian independence. In August 1990, the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, in the absence of the Georgian representatives, declared Abkhazia a sovereign republic of the Soviet Union independent of Georgia. This was immediately annulled by the Georgian Supreme Soviet.

6. During Mr. Gamsakhurdia's presidency, an agreement was reached between the Abkhaz leadership and the Georgian Government on a new election law under which the 18 per cent Abkhaz population was allocated 28 seats in the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, the 47 per cent Georgians were allocated 26 seats, and the remaining 35 per cent of the population (mainly Armenians and Russians) were allocated 11 seats. The law stipulated that major decisions had to be taken by two-thirds majority. In December 1991, a new Supreme Council was elected on the basis of this electoral law. However, this new law did not ease the political tensions. On the contrary, during the first half of 1992, the Abkhazian Supreme Council split into two opposing factions (Georgian and Abkhaz, with the 11 Armenian and Russian representatives divided almost evenly between the two) and for all intents and purposes the Supreme Council ceased to function as a whole.

7. When in mid-1992 the Government of Georgia concluded that the police was unable to control the ongoing sabotage and looting, it decided to send some 2,000 Georgian troops to Abkhazia for the announced purpose of protecting the railway and other communication links. Mr. Shevardnadze emphasized that it was the sovereign right of the Republic of Georgia to relocate troops within its territory. He told the mission that he had called Mr. Ardzinba about these arrangements.

8. Fierce fighting broke out when the Georgian troops entered Abkhazia on 14 August 1992 which resulted in some 200 dead and hundreds wounded. Mr. Shevardnadze pointed out that, in order to limit the conflict, he had restrained the Georgian armed forces from moving throughout Abkhazia, a decision for which he had been criticized by various political leaders in Georgia. When the fighting broke out, the Abkhaz leadership left Sukhumi for Gudauta, from where it is currently operating. The violence has resulted in up to 40,000 persons of various ethnic origins in Abkhazia becoming refugees and displaced persons.

9. While acknowledging that the Abkhaz people had legitimate grievances, Mr. Shevardnadze stressed that the attack against the Georgian troops was unprovoked and he believed that it had been planned in advance. He claimed that the north Caucasian fighters had come to Abkhazia before the fighting broke out. He added that earlier in the current year, while the Government of Georgia was preoccupied with the situation in South Ossetia, the Abkhaz leadership had repeatedly provoked the authorities in Tbilisi by such measures as the establishment of a 400 to 500-strong mono-ethnic national guard.

10. Mr. Ardzinba maintained that the stated reason for the Georgian army entering Abkhazia was merely a pretext by the Government of Georgia to

"oppress" the people of Abkhazia. He denied that he had received a phone call from Mr. Shevardnadze prior to the Georgian troops moving into Abkhazia. Mr. Ardzinba argued that the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the independence of Georgia and the adoption of its 1921 constitution created a legal vacuum which Abkhazia had the right to fill by declaring its independence.

The 3 September agreement

11. The 3 September agreement signed in Moscow by President Yeltsin and Chairman Shevardnadze and agreed to by the leaders of Abkhazia, including Mr. Ardzinba, inter alia ensures the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, provides for a cease-fire as of 5 September 1992, establishes a Monitoring and Inspection Commission composed of representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia and the Russian Federation to ensure compliance with the agreement, provides for the disarming and withdrawal of all illegal armed formations that have come from outside of Georgia, provides for the reduction of the armed forces of Georgia in Abkhazia to an agreed number required to protect railway and certain other installations, calls for the exchange of detainees, prisoners and hostages by 10 September 1992, calls for the removal of all impediments to the free movement of goods and persons, the return of refugees to their homes and the search for missing persons, calls for the resumption of the normal functions by the legitimate authorities of Abkhazia by 15 September 1992, and appeals to the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to support the principles of the agreement.

12. Mr. Shevardnadze underlined the importance of the 3 September agreement and called for its full implementation. He accused the Abkhaz side of continuing to violate the cease-fire, in particular, along the Bzib River in northern Abkhazia. It was noted that the cease-fire was holding along the Gumsite River, where the tripartite Commission has succeeded in interposing Russian troops between the two sides. He stressed the inseparability of the cease-fire and the withdrawal of the north Caucasian irregulars, and confirmed Georgia's willingness to reduce its troops to an agreed number necessary to protect the railway and other installations. He called for the urgent convening of the Abkhaz Parliament in Sukhumi or elsewhere in Abkhazia and for a secret vote by the parliament to decide whether the current authorities should remain in office or not.

13. Mr. Shevardnadze agreed to the need to preserve the autonomy of Abkhazia and to maintain its self-government status. He stressed, however, that a solution had to preserve the territorial integrity of Georgia and had to be acceptable to both Abkhaz and Georgians.

14. Mr. Ardzinba stressed that he had been forced to sign the 3 September agreement which he described as a pro-Georgian document. He stated that Abkhazia was not a part of Georgia and that the reference in the agreement to the territorial integrity of Georgia did not affect Abkhazia. He accused Georgia of continuing to violate the agreement and claimed that Georgian troops were still involved in attacking civilians as well as in widespread looting.

15. Mr. Ardzinba stated that all Georgian troops had to be withdrawn from Abkhazia before other aspects of the agreement could be implemented, including the withdrawal of the north Caucasian elements and the resumption of the functions by the Abkhazian authorities. He called for direct negotiations with Tbilisi to establish some kind of confederation or federation.

Observations

16. The situation in Abkhazia remains very tense and explosive with repercussions that could easily transcend Georgia's borders. The 3 September agreement remains largely unimplemented. Law and order in Akhazia has broken down to a large degree. If the problem is allowed to fester, it could assume ethnic and religious dimensions and draw neighbouring countries into the conflict.

17. The prompt application of the agreement should remain the foundation upon which a peaceful settlement can be negotiated. Support from the international community could help to encourage both sides to abide by the agreement and to negotiate a political settlement for Abkhazia that is fair to all concerned.

---